



The Ground Plane

South Bay
Amateur
Radio
Association
ARRL Member Club
Since 1974



Volume 3 Edition 2

February, 2002

Presidents Message

SBARA 2002 President—Mike AB6CV

February, brrrrr! Ok well it is winter. I think I will hold off on antenna changes for a couple of months. But now is a good time to think of what antennas you might want to check in the spring. I like to check for obvious corrosion problems. And coax condition. How old IS that coax? Ask yourself a simple question, which is older, the kids or the coax? Made you think huh? I like to check for bugs and birds in the antennas as well. I really hate the wasp nests. Anyway, just something to start thinking about.

I sent an email to the ARRL (via our helpful Section Manager). I wanted them to at least assign APRS frequencies on each VHF/UHF band. It is getting a bit overcrowded out here on just 2 meters (144.39). So lets see if some new frequencies pop up on the other bands.

The February meeting will have some fun in it. I guess you could title it "Amateur Radio Applications in Remotely Piloted Vehicles". It covers a couple of types of ham gear. We have demos and video. I hope you like it.

We can always use help with new topics for our meetings. If you liked a previous one maybe we can do another. Let us know. You can email me at ab6cv@arrl.net or just tell a club officer at the next meeting.

I heard that the FCC is going to start reading it's mail again. So maybe the forms you sent in last September might get looked at real soon.. Arrgghh.

73 and stay warm,
Mike AB6CV

SBARA Meeting

SBARA meets every third Wednesday at 7:30 PM at the Community Center in Fremont.

February Program

Autonomous Airplane using Amateur Radio Techniques. The speaker is Dick Kors of the Palo Alto Radio Club.

The meeting begins at 7:30 at the Community Center....

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February SBARA Program Autonomous Airplane using Amateur Radio Techniques

Come find out what is being planned as a remote control airplane that will autonomously fly itself back to where it took off. The speaker is Dick Kors of the Palo Alto Radio Club. Our own Mike Studer will be showing one of his planes as part of the program.

See you at the Club meeting this month on the 20th!!!! The fun begins at 7:30PM at the Community Center in Fremont.

Freebies

Six fiberglass masts, 1.25" OD: Two 14 feet long, three 12 feet long, one 6 feet long.

Antenna Grade Aluminum Tubing:
Enough for 21 MHz or higher Yagi. Needs boom.

Commercial Grade Tubing: Enough for 14 MHz or higher quarter-wave vertical.

Stainless steel quarter-wave whip for 10 meters.

HamFest News

Quick note to all hands!

The Monterey Ham Fest is changed to weekend of Feb 23.

ARRL FIELD DAY, AFFILIATED CLUB COMPETITION CHANGES ANNOUNCED

The ARRL has adopted rule changes affecting Field Day and the ARRL Affiliated Club Competition program. The primary Field Day change--effective with this year's event June 22-23--phases out the Novice-Technician station and replaces it with a new station category, the "Get-On-The-Air"--or GOTA--station.

A GOTA station is intended for operation by Novice and Technician operators or by generally inexperienced or inactive amateurs as well as by as-yet-unlicensed or "under-licensed" operators working under the privileges of a licensed control operator (third-party traffic rules apply--see the International Third Party Traffic page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html>). Under the revised rules, any Class A Field Day entry operating at least two transmitters may include a GOTA station, which will not count as an additional transmitter for the purpose of entry category.

The GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band and mode, but only one GOTA transmitter may be in use at any given time. The GOTA station may complete up to 400 QSO's to be counted toward the group's total Field Day score. A Field Day group can claim 100 bonus points if its GOTA station successfully completes 400 QSOs. The GOTA station does not affect the additional VHF/UHF station provided under Field Day rule 4.1.2.

Field Day 2002 will mark the first in which stations throughout the Americas have been invited to participate. As approved at the July 2001 ARRL Board of Directors' meeting, all International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 countries--North and South America--may take part in Field Day starting this June.

Complete Field Day rules and information packet will be available on the ARRL Web Contest Forms and Rules page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms> in early February. Field Day 2002 pins and T-shirt may be ordered now via the ARRL Web catalog <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=Field+Day+Pin>.

ARRL BOARD ADOPTS MODIFIED NOVICE BAND REFARMING PLAN

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a modified proposal to refarm the Novice bands, now that the FCC no longer issues Novice licenses. The Board met January 18-19 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee had proposed allowing Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW segments at up to 200 W output. The panel recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands, in part to allow expansion of phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The Board approved a modified plan that would leave in place or slightly trim the amount of additional phone spectrum the committee had recommended for 75 and 15 meters. The amended plan would drop the US phone band to 3725 kHz on 75 meters but leave it at 21,200 kHz on 15 meters. The original plan called for dropping both by 25 kHz.

The 75-meter proposal would expand the phone band by 50 kHz for Generals over the present allocation and by 25 kHz for Advanced and Extra licensees. On 15 meters, Generals would get another 25 kHz of phone spectrum, but phone privileges for Advanced and Extra class operators would stay the same.

The Novice Spectrum Study Committee's original recommendations for 40 and 10 meters were accepted. The ARRL plans to propose the modified re-farming plan to the FCC later this year along with other regulatory requests.

NEW RECORDS SET AT 241 GHZ AND 322 GHZ

Contacts made in mid-December "on the ultra-highs" by microwave enthusiast Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, set new North American records on two bands that amateurs don't encounter routinely--241 and 322 GHz.

On December 15, Justin, operating W2SZ/4 in Virginia, made contact with Gordon Howell, WA4RTS/4, on the 322-GHz band "over a whopping distance of 0.05 km (about 164 feet)," he said. Both stations were located in FM07ji.

"I know it's not much as far as DX is concerned, but it's on par with DB6NT's 411-GHz DX record and is a North American first for the 300-GHz band, excluding light," he added.

About an hour later another QSO was made between W2SZ/4 and WA4RTS/4 on 241 GHz over a distance of 1.1 km (approximately 3609 feet). "This is a North American first for the band and a new NA record at the same time," Justin said.

Both contacts were made using modulated CW and wideband FM receivers. The power output on 322 GHz was estimated to be just a few microwatts, while the power on 241 GHz was measured at 0.75 mW. The stations were constructed of 80.6-GHz free running Gunn oscillators driving GaAs diode triplers. Both setups used homebrew six-inch parabolic dishes with hyperbolic sub-reflectors.

Justin said the next step is to phase-lock the Gunn oscillators to crystal oscillators in the future to permit using narrowband modulation, "thus resulting in better DX." WA1ZMS estimated that over the span of his ham radio career, he's operated at least once on every available Amateur Radio band.

Hello Gang: N6DOK Sends;

Well we are nearing a dramatic crossroads with the Space-Craft development. Soon we will be assembling the system so that we can do a reality check. Lots of things to do yet. We are looking forward to getting this newest of platforms off the launch pad. Mr. Artelt will soon be updating the SBARASAT WEB site I am told, with Pic's and latest news as soon as it happens. Two of the kids in the ARLISS program have already obtained licenses, and there will be some exams this weekend according to Jenneen Hartshorn/KG6HCB, Pres of JFKHS S.P.A.C.E. club. The kids are planning to ramp up projects next week. Next weekend, they are paying a visit to the Chabot Space Sciences center museum. Following that, a trip to the Exploratorium.

Some of the projects they will be engaging in include, directional TOA antenna, Rocket construction, and CricketSat, CanSat, Sat Tracking Station. They will be traveling to the Black Rock Nevada test site this summer to test out their projects.

Recently the club received a High Tech Workstation for their use at JFKHS.

73's
Lloyd/N6DOK

* * REMOVE AND SEND IN TODAY * *

If you haven't done so already, please read information below and then fill out the backside of this page

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is that time of year to renew our SBARA membership. If you have sent your renewal form in we thank you. If you haven't, please continue reading.

There ***ARE*** many benefits to being a member of SBARA.

Here are some advantages:

- Discount on accessories at HRO when SBARA membership card is presented at time of purchase.
- A Subscription to the Groundplane newsletter (mailed to your address) is included in the membership.
- No attendance fees to Saturday workshops if you are a member. You just pay for the parts if you participate.

Your membership dues support many SBARA functions. If you enjoy:

- Field Day
- Monthly meetings with presentation.
- Saturday Workshops

Remember that these activities are made possible through your continued membership support.

So, Keep your membership current by sending in this renewal form with your check attached.

Membership Categories:

Regular: \$15.00 / yr
Family: \$20.00 / yr
Senior: \$5.00 / yr
Senior - (65 Years or older)

Thanks in Advance for your cooperation,

Harry Lau

Vice President - Membership
SBARA 2002

Fill out Membership Form on reverse side of this page and mail to:

SBARA – South Bay Amateur Radio Association
C/o Jim Wood, Treasure
PO BOX 8377
Fremont, CA. 94537-8377

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2001

CALL SIGN: _____ CLASS: _____ (General, Tech, etc.)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: () _____ E-MAIL: _____

ARRL MEMBER YES() NO()

Fill out for family membership:

CALL SIGN: _____ CLASS: _____ (General, Tech, etc.)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ARRL MEMBER YES() NO()

CALL SIGN: _____ CLASS: _____ (General, Tech, etc.)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ARRL MEMBER YES() NO()

CALL SIGN: _____ CLASS: _____ (General, Tech, etc.)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ARRL MEMBER YES() NO()

Membership Categories:

Regular: \$15.00 / yr \$ _____

Family: \$20.00 / yr \$ _____

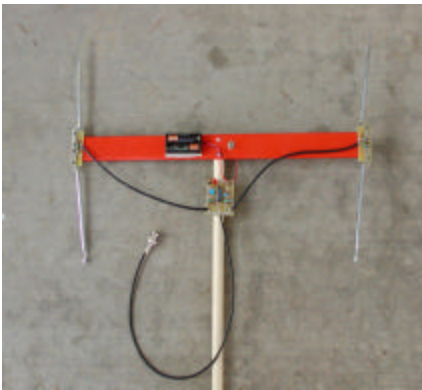
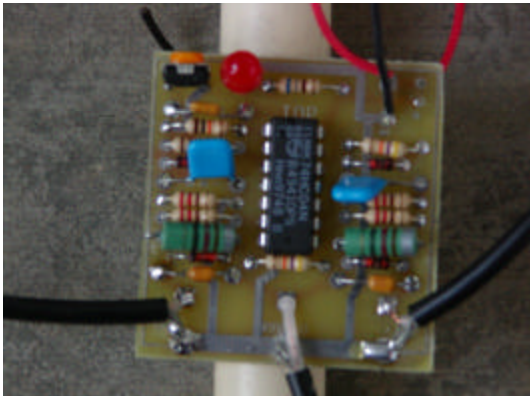
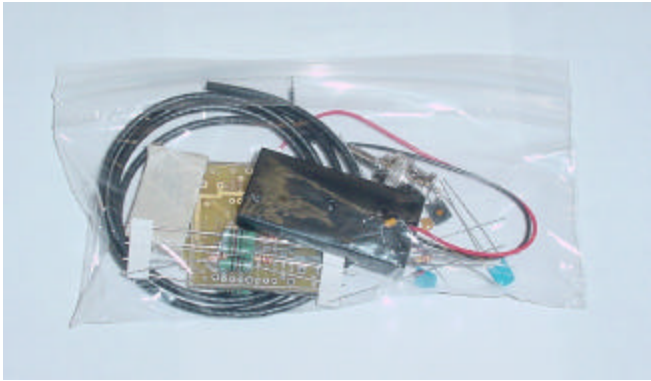
Senior: \$5.00 / yr \$ _____

(65 Or Older)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail Check to:
SBARA – South Bay Amateur Radio Association
C/o Jim Wood, Treasure
PO BOX 8377
Fremont, CA. 94537-8377

Photo Collage of Events



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Visit SBARASAT on the Internet at <http://www.sbarasat.org>

The Ground Plane

<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>

<http://www.sbarasat.org>

South Bay Amateur Radio Association—SBARA

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